

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 /072 W  
-----099431 092016Z /43

R 091719Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4012  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX  
AMCONSUL LYON  
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE  
AMCONSUL NICE  
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, FR  
SUBJECT: FURTHER LABOR TROUBLE AVERTED FOR THE  
TIME BEING

REF: (A) PARIS 36839; (B) PARIS 35723

1. SUMMARY: THE CGT, HAVING PREVENTED A RESUMPTION  
OF THE ELECTRICITY CUTS, WILL NOW HOLD A SUMMIT WITH  
THE CFTD TO DISCUSS STRATEGY. ACTUALLY, BOTH UNIONS'  
INTENTIONS APPEAR CLEAR: TO WORK TOGETHER, INSOFAR  
AS POSSIBLE, IN DEVELOPING SUPPORT FOR THEIR RESPEC-  
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TIVE PROGRAMS AND DEMANDS IN ANTICIPATION OF THE  
NEGOTIATIONS THAT WILL FOLLOW THE MARCH ELECTIONS.  
END SUMMARY.

2. ON JANUARY 4, THE CGT ELECTRICAL WORKERS UNION DE-  
CIDED TO CONSIDER ENTERING INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH  
MANAGEMENT RATHER THAN RESUME THEIR STRIKE (SEE

REFTELS). ALTHOUGH THE MUCH SMALLER CFDT UNION WANTED TO CONTINUE THE POWER CUTS, THEY ARE UNABLE TO DO SO IN FACE OF THE CGT DECISION; AND SO THE LIKELIHOOD OF ANOTHER STRIKE BEING CALLED IN THE NEAR FUTURE APPEARS UNLIKELY.

3. ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL, THE CGT HAS ALSO TAKEN THE INITIATIVE BY PROPOSING A STRATEGY CONFERENCE WITH THE CFDT, AN OFFER WHICH THE CFDT HAS ACCEPTED. HOWEVER, THE OUTLINE OF BOTH UNIONS' STRATEGIES ALREADY SEEMS VISABLE: TO WORK TOGETHER, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, ON SPECIFIC ISSUES; AND MOBILIZE THEIR SUPPORTERS BEHIND THEIR RESPECTIVE PROGRAMS. IN THAT CONNECTION, THE CGT CAN BE EXPECTED TO AVOID CREATING POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR THE PCF (HENCE HALTING THE UNPOPULAR POWER CUTS), WHEREAS THE CFDT WILL PLAY ITS OWN, OFTEN DECENTRALIZED, HAND, WITHOUT THAT KIND OF CONCERN FOR THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ANY POLITICAL PARTY.

4. WHAT THE CGT AND CFDT ARE NOW ENGAGED IN, IS BUILDING UP STEAM FOR THE CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS THAT WILL FOLLOW THE MARCH ELECTIONS, RATHER THAN THE VOTE ITSELF. IN THAT CONNECTION, THEY ARE ALREADY TRYING TO STAY OUT AHEAD OF EVERYONE ELSE ON WHAT IS CERTAINLY GOING TO BE THE CRUCIAL POST-ELECTION LABOR ISSUE: A RETURN TO FREE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING. AFTER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WELL OVER A YEAR OF THE BARRE PLAN'S FORMAL RESTRAINTS ON NEGOTIATED WAGE INCREASES, EVEN THE MODERATE UNIONS' PATIENCE IS BEGINNING TO WEAR THIN. ALTHOUGH MANY OF THE REFORMIST UNIONS, PARTICULARLY IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, RECOGNIZE THEIR NEED FOR RESTRAINT IN THE FACE OF WORLD ECONOMIC REALITIES, THE INDEFINITE CONTINUATION OF FORMAL GOVERNMENT CONTROL OVER BARGAINING IS UNACCEPTABLE TO ANY TRADE UNION; AND NOISES TO THIS EFFECT ARE BEGINNING TO BE HEARD MORE FREQUENTLY. ONCE THE ELECTIONS ARE OVER, WHATEVER GOVERNMENT EMERGES IS GOING TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM, OR FACE WHAT COULD BE THE LIVELY CONSEQUENCES. HARTMAN

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NNN



## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LABOR, PUBLIC UTILITIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FURTHER LABOR TROUBLE AVERTED FOR THE TIME BEING  
**TAGS:** ELAB, FR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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